



Seattle, WA

Brownfields Showcase Community

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

March 1998

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination. In May 1997, Vice President Gore announced a Brownfields National Partnership to bring together the resources of more than 15 Federal agencies to address local cleanup and reuse issues in a more coordinated manner. This multiagency partnership has pledged support to sixteen "Brownfields Showcase Communities"—models demonstrating the benefits of collaborative activity on brownfields. The designated Brownfields Showcase Communities are distributed across the country and vary by size, resources, and community type. A wide range of support will be leveraged, depending on the particular needs of each Showcase Community.

BACKGROUND

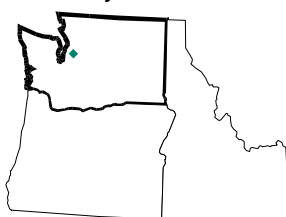
A federal partnership has selected the city of Seattle, Washington, and surrounding King County as a National Brownfields Showcase Community. King County and Seattle are partnering with the Duwamish Coalition to address brownfields in the Duwamish industrial corridor. They are linking brownfields activities with efforts to reduce urban sprawl, the state of Washington's Growth Management Act, and regional transportation improvements. Economic redevelopment of brownfields in the corridor also is a component of Seattle's Enterprise Community program, which focuses on minority and low-income residents. An average of 19% of Duwamish corridor residents live below the poverty level, and the household income is 28% below the county's median. Thirty percent are minorities. Recent

regional growth has renewed demand for industrial land. The corridor is the most highly concentrated industrial area in the state, encompassing 8,500 acres in the Enterprise Community. Brownfields cleanups complement existing city, county, and port programs in the Duwamish River ecosystem to protect wetland and salmon habitat.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The city of Seattle and King County have many innovative brownfields activities underway. The focus of the Showcase effort stems from the work of the Duwamish Coalition, which includes private companies, public agencies, financial

Community Profile



Seattle, Washington

Seattle is focusing on solutions which address barriers to the cleanup and redevelopment of the 8,500-acre Duwamish industrial corridor, which contains more than 200 contaminated properties. The city, King County, and other partners are implementing a broad range of innovative projects to overcome redevelopment hurdles.

institutions, community and business organizations, labor unions, education institutions, and tribal and state governments. The total estimated

public and private investment in Coalition projects to date is more than \$1.9 million, including \$959,000 in funds and \$966,652 of in-kind services. Numerous studies and financial models are in place or under development to respond to the Coalition's findings.

Project-specific partnerships formed by the Coalition include the Duwamish Brownfields/ Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon Project implemented under a multi-jurisdictional memorandum of agreement, and the Duwamish Groundwater Pathways Project implemented by King County and Seattle. Innovative revitalization mechanisms have been developed, including a demonstration process for public and private entities to demonstrate how cleanup of contaminated land can be facilitated.

SHOWCASE COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The city and county have identified 203 properties in the Duwamish corridor with contamination, 84 of which are regulated hazardous waste sites, and 118 of which are leaking underground storage tank sites. At 74% of the sites, cleanup will cost more than \$50,000. In addition to existing projects, the city and county, through the Duwamish Coalition, will develop and implement the following projects:

- Expanding a cooperative environmental extension service to provide technical assistance to small business owners;

- Developing a model area-wide consent decree and agreed order for cleanup;
- Developing a model prospective purchaser agreement to deal with liability issues;
- Establishing a site assessment grant and loan fund;
- Securing first source hiring agreements to ensure that developers and prospective employers hire from the city and county workforce; and
- Implementing an expanded outreach and communication plan.

Contacts

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For more information on the Brownfields Showcase Communities,
visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/showcase.htm>